

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMISSION ON AGING MINUTES**  
**URBANA SENIOR CENTER**  
**September 14, 2009**

<b>DOA MEMBERS</b>	<b>DOA STAFF</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
<b>Suzan M. Adams</b>	<b>Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec</b>	<b>Earl S. Beck, PhD</b>		<b>Dawn Fazey</b>
<b>William P. Allen, PhD</b>	<b>Carolyn True</b>	<b>Rae Ann Butler</b>		<b>Cat Flournoy</b>
<b>Cristina Donahue- Taylor</b>		<b>Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair</b>		
<b>Millard Haines</b>		<b>David Gray, Comm</b>		
<b>Ona M. John Kile</b>		<b>Lloyd Hoover</b>		
<b>Louise Lynch</b>		<b>Alan Imhoff, Alderman</b>		
<b>Burt Shawver</b>		<b>Margaret Nusbaum</b>		
<b>Virginia Skelley</b>				
<b>Robert Wannemacher</b>				
<b>Stephen Wilhide</b>				

- I. Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Chair,** called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. Welcome & Introductions –** Louise welcomed all attendees. Introductions were made around the table as guests were present at today's meeting.

**III. Approval of Minutes** – - The minutes of the August 10, 2009 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

**IV. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray was not available today to give a report.

**Alderman's Report** – Alderman Imhoff was not available today to give a report.

**Update on Senior Forum, Hal Ehart Louise Lynch** – A letter has gone out to the County Commissioners as well as other state delegates inviting them to the forum on October 13th at FCC. The five questions will be on the issues of transportation, housing, taxes, crimes, and the comprehensive plan. It is very important to have a large turnout for this opportunity to discuss issues with our representatives. This event has been well advertised locally. Commission members should continue to distribute flyers and discuss the forum with appropriate people in their local area. Louise has invited the people from the MD state DoA to the forum.

**Update on United Seniors of Maryland, Virginia Skelley** – Virginia distributed copies of the September, 2009 USM News. The USM did not meet over the summer. The next meeting is on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Not everyone has been getting the emails regarding current recommendations and an opportunity to give their opinion on this Commission's stance.

**Elder Expo Representation, Louise Lynch** – The sign-up sheet for coverage at the Elder Expo was distributed with the minutes. All time slots are now covered. This is the first time the CoA has been represented at this event. This will become a yearly occurrence for this Commission. Christine will be working on the display for the booth.

**V. Coordination of Health Services in the United Kingdom, Dawn Fazey** – Dawn presented information on how a Community Health Care system works in the Dudley Metropolitan Borough of the United Kingdom. The social workers and health care workers work together when someone has applied for services. Health services in England are free, but social services are chargeable. The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. Everyone has a GP of their choice and can go to a hospital of their choice. The GP's salary is controlled by the government. Some prescriptions have fees attached according to age specific criteria, otherwise they are free. All prescriptions have the same cost regardless of drug type. Dental and optical care is available on a sliding scale fee schedule. Previously there could be a lengthy wait for medical services but this wait has been shortened to eighteen weeks

for routine services and two weeks for urgent care needs. The Delayed Discharges Act of 2003 allowed health services to refer to social services when a patient is to be discharged from the hospital. Social services then has three days to set up services for safe discharge. Hospice and palliative care services are also available. Tourists receive health services at no charge.

The 1990 Community Care Act changed services in a way which put the emphasis on keeping people in their home as opposed to moving them into a nursing home. Social services does most of the work setting up services in the home. There is a great deal of communication between services in the home with a paper record being accessible to all individuals serving the client. They do have a program where the funds will follow the client if they move once the Plan of Care has been established.

**Crossing the Quality Chasm-A New Health System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Stephen Wilhide** – Twenty to thirty thousand people die every year from treatable conditions in the US. Some of the issues with the current healthcare system are lack of communication between providers, duplicate testing, and lack of coordination of services. Chronic conditions have the highest cost. There are organized clinics in which physicians work together for the wellbeing of the patient. Outcomes are much better when the physicians and hospital work together. Electronic medical records are a great tool to enhance patient health management. Payment based on outcomes instead of fee for service would encourage coordination of care. A system redesign is needed to optimize care for patients across the entire continuum of care. Chronic conditions would become more manageable if a care coordination team were in place. Quality assurance by peers also improves patient outcomes. There are these types of systems which work very well currently in place in the US.

**VI. Director's Report, Carolyn True**– Carolyn distributed the statistical report for the DoA for August, 2009. This report gives a breakdown of what each of the programs has accomplished for the month. The number of people accessing service was slightly less than July 2009.

The moratorium continues on the Senior Care Program. The department received approval from the BoCC to begin the Money Follows the Person program as soon as we receive funding from the state. We are anticipating cuts from the state DoA due to state budget constraints. Louise received information at the state CoA meeting that seniors have been sending letters of protest to cuts in programs to the governor and it has gotten his attention.

The Caregiver program will be hosting an Elder Mental Health and Caregiver Wellness program on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1030am.

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Linda Myers from Frederick County Mental Health Association will present information on a variety of topics related to caregivers.

FCC offers credit and non-credit Gerontology classes. Sue Adams distributed brochures with new classes that are available this fall.

Cristina was present during the September 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Center Month Proclamation by the BoCC. Coordinators from the senior centers were also present. She has attended various other activities with the DoA.

Frederick City will be the Capital for the Day on September 23. State representatives will be in the area that day touring and meeting with local citizens.

Tranquility will be hosting a seasonal flu shot clinic on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 10a-2p and October 26<sup>th</sup>, 11a-3p.

**VII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,  
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

**October 27 – CoA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center**

**November 9 – CoA Meeting, 1:00pm at the Frederick Senior Center**